

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the detailed Office Action dated October 20, 2004. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 6-10, 23-28, 35-40, 46, and 47 were pending in the application.

Claims 35, 36, and 40 are requested to be cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 6-10, 23-28, 37-39, 46, and 47 are now pending in this application.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 35, 36 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,508,689 (“Rado et al.”). Applicants have canceled claims 35, 36, and 40 without prejudice to further prosecution on the merits. By canceling the claims rejected by the Examiner, the Applicants intend to obtain timely issuance of a patent containing claims reciting subject matter the Examiner has indicated is allowable. Applicants wish to make it clear that they do not agree to acquiesce in the rejection of claims 35, 36, and 40 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and/or agree with the Examiner’s view of the scope and content of Rado et al..

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating on page 5 of the Office Action that claims 6-10, 23-28, 37-39, and 46-47 are allowed.

* * *

The Applicants respectfully submit that the present Application is in a condition for allowance. The Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of pending claims.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1447.

Respectfully submitted,

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